

THE MARYLAND FARMER, AGAIN.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

It seems that we are now fighting Mexico for "indemnity and security."

Every one must see that the first is utterly unattainable. What can indemnify the nation for the loss of the many thousand brave men whose corpses are now festering in the chapparals of Mexico? Will land or money do it? We cannot get them if they will. All the valuable lands of Mexico are private property; and as to money, it is impossible to get from her the tenth part of the sum required for the daily subsistence of our armies. Will her mines indemnify us? Let us inquire first if they enriched Spain during the three hundred years that she possessed them. Will they be more profitable to us than they were to her?

But let us see if we can get "security" for "security" is something that we certainly need—not against Mexico; for so far as she is concerned we have never been in the slightest danger. No one is now so shallow as to believe that, since the battle of San Jacinto, Mexico has ever had the least intention of attacking us. True, she attacked our troops when they invaded her soil; but she did it for the same reason that the sorcerer will endeavor to defend his nest from the assaults of the eagle.

The "security" that we need is security against the mal-administration of the Executive. Do we need an amendment of the constitution which shall place the movements of our armies beyond the control of Executive power? Let us suppose that hereafter some "hair-brained young man" shall succeed in reaching the Presidential chair; and let us suppose further, that the "hyperbolic fiend" of foreign conquest shall get possession of "his weak pia mater," that like a second Malvolio, he can "talk of nothing" but glory. If such a man be sufficiently fool-hardy to throw himself over a precipice into the midst of a foreign war, is he to be permitted to drag the nation after him? Even now we are dared to refuse to follow the Executive lead.

We boast of our constitution as the perfection of human wisdom; let us see if it be not found hereafter to possess some unhappy defects.

But, according to others, we are now fighting to sustain "the honor and glory of the nation." It is not difficult to see how a man may acquire glory by defending his country; but how he is to gain it by assaulting a weak and powerless people, is not so clear. If I, who am six feet high, attack my pigmy neighbor without provocation, and beat and abuse him beyond measure, instead of glory, I acquire everlasting disgrace. I exhibit myself to the world as a dastardly ruffian. But if I continue my assault until my victim, in utter despair, offers to give up his farm or his purse to purchase a respite from my ill usage, shall I not cover myself with eternal infamy if I take them, by thus giving proof that I was governed by the meanest and vilest motives in making the attack? But if we could gain any amount of glory by the present war, would it look magnanimous in us to acquire it at the expense of the blood, the tears, and sorrows of Mexico? Would not the heartlessness and cruelty of such a course disgrace the name of a Christian nation?

Conquests are in general alike injurious both to the victors and the vanquished. The most of those conquerors that we read of in history were the meanest, vilest, most unscrupulous scoundrels that ever disgraced the world. Their principal characteristic was a ferocious recklessness of human life and happiness.

The Cabinet appears to be actuated by a spirit so dark and vindictive towards Mexico that it is perfectly appalling. Their only fixed line of policy is to "kill, kill, kill." The feeling of patriotism, heretofore considered as the first of human virtues, is punished in Mexicans as the most atrocious of crimes. Any attempt to defend their native country is stigmatized as an insurrection and punished by shooting its abettors. Every man taken with arms in his hands is called a guerrilla, and every petty subaltern appears to feel at liberty to indict military execution upon all guerrillas without the slightest hesitation. Not only so, but they are insulted, scoffed at, jeered, and assailed with opprobrious epithets, even when being led out to be shot. And if an American is found slain by a private assassin, his comrades immediately murder a score of the first Mexicans they meet, whether innocent or guilty, by way of revenge. Truly,

"Man's inhumanity to man,
Makes countless thousands mourn."

If we will take the trouble to read the history of the American Revolution, we shall find that the noble and patriotic men who distinguished themselves under GREENE, SUMTER, MARION, and others were reduced to a state but little superior to Mexican guerrillas. They were at times almost totally disorganized, and without food, clothing, or arms. Yet who does not admire the nobility, perseverance with which they adhered to the fortunes of their unhappy country? Shall we insult the memory of such ancestors by punishing men for displaying the same virtues which they exhibited? It is of no avail to tell us that guerrillas are desperate and lawless men. What has made them desperate and lawless, but our own unprovoked invasion of their country?

The friends of the Executive tell us we must send an immense army to Mexico for the purpose of producing "a moral effect." And, astonishing as it may seem, some Whig gentlemen unite with them in the opinion. What do they mean by "a moral effect"? Is it not the effect of fear? The purpose then is avowed that Mexico is to be frightened into submission to compliance with our terms. But men who are governed by the fear of military power are slaves. Are we, then, to enslave Mexico?

But if we assist the Executive in enslaving foreign countries, how long will it be before he will be desirous of attempting the same process upon ourselves? Even now his partisans deprecate all freedom of debate, lest Mexico shall hear of it. No man is to be permitted to breathe a whisper in favor of truth and justice, lest Mexico shall be encouraged to resist.

We have always supposed that perfect freedom of speech and debate was the birthright of every American. Must we now give them up to accommodate President Polk? Was there any contract, express or implied, at his inauguration that, during his Administration the nation should wear a gag?

But what sort of Democracy is this, which takes upon itself all the attributes of the most odious tyranny? A Democracy that seeks to enslave nations abroad and suppress all freedom of speech at home; a Democracy that demands immense standing armies, burdens posterity with a prodigious national debt, asks for taxes on all the necessities of life, and contemptuously refuses the smallest pittance to improve our condition at home? Is such a Democracy worth supporting?

MARYLAND, JAN. 29, 1848. AN OLD FARMER.

A remarkable case of Sombambion occurred at Easton, Pa. on Monday week. A lad of 16, who had been medically treated for a cold, rose from his bed, went through several apartments to the street, ran the round of several streets in a pelted rain with only a shirt on, into a hotel where he saw a light, and being recognized was round. He had been frightened by a dream that two persons sleeping in the same room were murdered. Strange to say his health was improved by the excursion. —*Newark Daily Ad.*

CHARIVARI IN TIVERTON, R. I.—In this town on Wednesday evening a crowd undertook to serenade a newly married daughter of a Mr. Isaac Barker, by a general racket upon tin kettles, blowers, and stove funnels. Mr. Barker dispersed the rioters by firing at them with a gun loaded with shot, and wounding five or six of them. One of the party thus hit, named Samuel Negus, has entered a complaint against the party he was trying to insult for the assault.

DEFENCES IN ENGLAND AGAINST FOREIGN INVASION.

A good deal of discussion has arisen in England on the sufficiency of the preparations of defence of the country against an invasion from the coast of France, in case it should be attempted by a concentration of the power of the latter country, aided by steam vessels—these latter being regarded as a new element in the principles of attack and defence. A greater interest has been given to the discussion by the appearance of a letter from the Duke of Wellington, in which he expresses a decided opinion that the present condition of the country, in regard to defence, is unsatisfactory. The letter is as follows:

STRAATHFIELD, JAN. 9, 1848.

To Major General Sir John J. Burgoyne, K.C.B.
My Dear General: Some days have elapsed—indeed a fortnight has since I received your note, with a copy of your observations on the possible invasion of this country, under our present system of military preparation.

You are aware that I have for years been sensible of the alteration produced in maritime warfare by the application of steam to the propulsion of ships at sea.

This discovery immediately exposed all parts of the coast of this island, which a vessel could approach at all, to be approached, at all times of the tide, and in all seasons, by vessels so propelled, from all quarters. We are, in fact, assailable, and at least liable to insult, and to have contributions levied upon us on all parts of our coast; that is, the coast of defence, including the Channel Islands, which, to this time from the period of the Norman conquest, have never been successfully invaded.

I have in vain endeavored to awaken the attention of different Administrations to this state of things, as well known to our neighbors (rivals in power, at least former adversaries and enemies) as it is to ourselves.

I hope that your paper may be attended with more success than my representations have been.

I have above, in few words, represented our danger. We have no defence, or hope of defence, excepting in our fleet.

We hear a great deal of the spirit of the people of England, for which no man entertains a higher respect than I do. But, unorganized, undisciplined, without systematic subordination and without any system of defence, the spirit, opposed to the fire of money and cannon, and to such an organized and disciplined troops, would only expose those animated by such spirit to confusion and destruction. Let any man only make the attempt to turn to some use this spirit in a case of partial local disturbance: the want of previous systematic organization and discipline will prevent him even from communicating with more than his own means, and he will be unable to move, while mobs are in movement through the country, the most powerful will find that he can scarcely move from his own door.

It is perfectly true that, as we stand at present, with our naval armaments and dockyards well garrisoned, 5,000 men of all arms could not put to sea, and, if required, could not service whatever, without leaving standing without relief all employed on any duty, not excepting even the guards over the palace and the person of the sovereign.

I calculate that a declaration of war should probably find our own garrisons of the strength as follows, particularly considering that one of the most common accusations against this country is, that the practice has been to concentrate the army at sea simultaneously with a declaration of war, the order for the first of which must have been issued before the last can be published.

We ought to be with garrisons as follows, at the moment war is declared:

Channel Islands, (besides the militia of each well-organized, trained, and disciplined),	10,000 men.
Plymouth,	10,000 do.
Milford Haven,	5,000 do.
Gibraltar,	10,000 do.
Portsmouth,	10,000 do.
Sheerness, Chatham, and the Thames,	10,000 do.

I suppose that one-half of the whole regular force of the country would be stationed in Ireland, which half would give the garrison for Cork. The remainder must be supplied from the half of the whole force at home stationed in Great Britain.

The whole force employed at home in Great Britain and Ireland would not afford a sufficient number of men for the mere defence and occupation, on the breaking out of war, of the works constructed for the defence of the dock-yards and naval arsenals, without leaving a single man disposable.

The measure upon which I have earnestly entreated different Administrations to decide, is constitutional, and has been invariably adopted in time of peace for the last thirty years, is to raise, embody, organize, and discipline the militia of the same numbers for each of the three kingdoms united as during the late war. This would give a mass of organized force amounting to about 150,000 men, which we might immediately set to work to discipline. This alone would enable us to establish the strength of our army.

But, as we stand now, and if it be true that the exertions of the fleet alone are not sufficient to provide for our defence, we are not safe for the consideration of our defence, and have examined and recommended over and over again the whole coast from the North Foreland, by Dover, Folkestone, Beachy Head, Brighton, Arundel, to Selsey-bill, near Portsmouth; and I say that, excepting immediately under the fire of Dover, there is not a spot on the coast of which I am not confident that it would not be thrown on shore at any time of tide, with any wind and in any weather, and from which such body of infantry, so thrown on shore, would not find within the distance of five miles a road into the interior of the country through the cliffs practicable for the march of a body of troops.

That in that space of coast (that is, between the North Foreland and Selsey-bill) there are not less than seven small harbors or mouths of rivers, each without defence of any kind, having landed his infantry on the coast, might take possession, and therein land his cavalry and artillery of all caliber, and establish himself and his communication with France. The nearest part of the coast to the metropolis is undoubtedly the coast of Sussex, which is not less than seven miles from London, and there are not less than seven great roads leading from Brighton upon London, and the French army must be much altered indeed since the time at which I was better acquainted with it, if there are not now belonging to it forty *chefs d'etat* Major Generals capable of sitting down and ordering the march of a body of 40,000 men; their embarkations, with their horses and artillery, on the several French ports on the coast; their disembarkation at named points on the English coast—that of the artillery and cavalry in named ports or mouths of rivers, and the disembarkation of the several columns; and the march of each of these from stage to stage to London.

Let any man examine the maps and road-books, consider of the matter, and judge for himself.

I know of no mode of resistance, much less of protection, from this danger, excepting by an army in the field capable of meeting and contending with its formidable enemy, aided by all the means of fortification which experience in war and science can suggest.

I shall be deemed foolishly in engaging for the defence of the empire with an army composed of such a force of militia. I may be so. I confess it, I should infinitely prefer, and should feel more confidence in an army of regular troops. But I know that I shall not have those. I may have others, and an addition is made to the existing regular army allotted for home defence, but I do not know of any other way, there would be a sufficient disciplined force in the field to enable him who should command to defend the country.

This is my view of our danger and our resources. I was aware that my magazines and arsenals were very inadequately provided with ordnance and cartridges, arms, stores of all descriptions, and ammunition.

The deficiency has been occasioned in part by the sale of arms, and of various descriptions of ordnance stores, since the termination of the late war, in order to diminish the demand of supply to carry on the peace service of the ordnance; in part by the configuration of the arsenal which occurred in the Tower, some years ago, and by the difficulty under which the Government, in this country, has to take into consideration measures necessary for the safety of the country in time of war.

The state of the ordnance, arms, ammunition, &c. in magazines, is in part the question of expense, and perhaps, in some degree, of time.

I would recommend to have an alphabetical list of the stores examined by a committee, and made out in form, as upon the enclosed half sheet of paper, by ascertaining what there was in 1804, and what there is in store now, of each article, and the difference between the two accounts.

I have taken the year 1804 as the standard, as that was the year in which the invasion was threatened. It was previous to the employment of the troops in the Peninsula, or in North America; in short, as nearly as possible similar to the political circumstances in which we stand at this moment, excepting that we are now at peace with France; we were then at war.

Fourth column would be the estimate of the expense of bringing the magazines to the state in which they were in 1804. With this information before him the Master General could give the Government accurate information of ordnance arms, ammunition, and stores in the magazines of the country.

You will see from what I have written that I have contemplated the danger to which you have referred. I have done so far as I have drawn to it the attention of different Administrations at different times.

You will observe likewise that I have considered of the measures of prospective security and of the mode and cost of the attainment.

I have done more. I have looked at and considered these localities in great detail, and have made up my mind upon the details of their defence.

These are questions to which my mind has not been unaccustomed. I have considered and provided for the defence, the successful defence, of the frontiers of many countries.

You are the confidential head of the principal defensive part of the country. I will, if you and the Master General of the Ordnance choose, converse or otherwise communicate confidentially (confidentially?) with you upon all the details of this subject; will inform you of all that I know, have seen, and think upon it, and what my notions are on the details of the defensive system to be adopted, and eventually carried into execution.

I quite concur in all your views of the danger of our position, and of the magnitude of the stake at issue. I am especially sensible of the certainty of failure, if we do not at an early moment attend to the measures necessary to be taken for our defence, and of the disgrace, the indelible disgrace of such failure; putting out of view all the other unfortunate consequences, such as the loss of the political and social position of this country among the nations of Europe, of all its allies, in concert with and in aid of whom it has in our own time contended successfully in arms for its own honor and safety, and the independence and freedom of the world.

When did any man hear of allies of a country unable to defend itself?

Years of economy of means, and I admit that the high views of national finance of others, induce them to postpone those measures absolutely necessary for mere defence and safety under existing circumstances, forgetting altogether the common practice of successful armies in modern times imposing upon the conquered enormous pecuniary contributions, as well as other warlike and ornamental property.

Look at the sums proffered by France in Italy and Russia; at Vienna repeatedly; at Berlin, at Moscow—the contributions levied, besides the subsistence, maintenance, clothing, and equipment of the army which made the conquest. Look at the conduct of the allied army which invaded France, and had possession of Paris in 1815. Look at the account of the pecuniary sacrifices made upon that occasion, under their different heads of contributions, payments for subsistence, and maintenance of the invading armies, including clothing and other equipments, payments of old repudiated State debts, payments of debts due to individuals in war in the different countries of Europe, repayment for contributions levied, and movable and immovable property sold in the course of the revolutionary war.

But such an account cannot be made out against this country. No; but I believe that the means of some demands would not be wanting. Are there no claims for a fleet at Toulon in 1793? None for debts left unpaid by British subjects in France, who escaped from confinement under coveys of the invasion in 1814 by the allies? Can we not pretend to limit the amount of the demands on account of the contributions *du guerre*?

Then look at the conditions of the treaties of Paris, 1814, 1815.

France, having been in possession of nearly every capital in Europe, and having been the theatre of the operations, and being in its possession or under its influence the whole of Italy, Germany, and Poland, is reduced to its territorial limits as they stood in 1792.

Do we suppose that we should be allowed to keep—could we advance a pretension to keep—more than the islands composing the United Kingdom, ceding discreetly the Channel Islands, which we have never established himself since the period of the Norman conquest?

I am bordering on seventy-seven years of age passed in honor. I hope that the Almighty may protect me from being the witness of the tragedy which I cannot persuade my contemporaries to take measures to avert.

Believe me ever yours, sincerely,
WELLINGTON.

STEAMBOATING THE SCOTO RIVER.—Keelboats used to ascend the Ohio river as far as Chillicothe, perhaps further, before the Ohio canal was built, and flat boats were common; but since then the Ohio has been pretty much abandoned as "a desert waste of waters." But a new era has arrived. On Monday of last week the steamer *American* started up the Ohio for the head of navigation. The following note to the Ohio State Journal announces the success of the experiment:

PIKETTS, (OHIO), FEBRUARY 1, 1848.
I write to acquaint you with the gratifying intelligence that the steamer *American*, Gray master, is a few miles below this place, on her first trip up the Ohio, and that she will, without doubt, arrive in the neighborhood of Chillicothe this evening or to-morrow morning. A thorough examination of the river was made a few days since by competent captains, and it fully confirmed the opinion heretofore entertained that the Ohio is navigable for light draught steamers during the greater part of the year. The *American* is not a small boat, but it has not as yet met with any obstructions, and none are anticipated. I hope to be able to inform you soon that a regular line of packets is running from Chillicothe to Portsmouth.

The New York Journal of Commerce has a letter dated Constantinople, Dec. 15, which says that the annual festival of the Turks, called *Courban Bairam*, or "Feast of Sacrifices," was made memorable this year by the issue of an Imperial Order constituting the Protestant subjects of the Empire into a separate and independent community, like that of the Armenians, Greeks, and Latins.

FROM THE BOSTON JOURNAL OF FRIDAY.

So it seems that the veteran Commander-in-Chief actually to be tried on charges preferred by General Worth—that the Paymaster General of the Army is to be the President of this Court of Inquiry, and Caleb Cushing, who never set a squadron in the field, and who, so far as he is enlightened by military experience, hardly knows the difference between a drum major and a major domo, is one of the members of the Court to investigate the conduct of the successful Commander of the Army, and decide whether he is guilty of sins of omission or commission which should subject him to the ideal of that "solemn mockery," a Court Martial!

EXPORTATION OF SPECIE.—The shipments of specie from the port of New York last week amounted to \$354,096, making the total amount shipped from that port since the first of January \$1,724,427.

THE ARMY CONTRACTS FOR 1848, for furnishing supplies to the United States troops, have been distributed as follows:

Blankets, 15,000, to Grant & Barton, New York.	Kerseys, 100,000 yards sky blue, to Caleb Cushing, agent of the Virginia Woolen Company, 4,000 yards dark blue, to W. Priest, Little Falls Wool Growers' Manufacturing Company.
Blue fine cloth, 4,000 yards, dragoon service, to W. Churchill, Utah Steam Woolen Company.	Cotton wool flannels, 10,000 yards, to John Scott, Fairmount, Philadelphia.
Twilled flannels, 30,000 yards, to T. Fox, New York.	Half hose, 3,000 dozen, to R. B. Fox, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

The item of "kerseys," alloted to the Virginia Woolen Company at Richmond, involves a cost of upwards of \$125,000.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—The forty-two, whilst crossing the Lincoln river at Otisville, the 5th ultimo, was swamped, and of the six passengers in it three were drowned. The deceased were Mr. WHEATLAND, John Law, and a young man named McGRAW. Mr. Keeler, Mr. Boles, and Mr. G. Burr were saved; Boles and Burr by swimming to the shore, and Mr. Keeler by holding on to the ship, which he doated full half a mile before being rescued. Mr. Wheatland leaves a young wife to mourn his loss, having been married about four weeks.

The venerable widow of the late MATTHEW B. WHITNEY, Esq., lately came to a sudden and shocking death in Danbury, (Conn.) by a burning. She retired to her room and had put on her night clothes, and it is supposed that she had been reading a newspaper, and that, whilst engaged, it came in contact with the flame of the lamp, she threw the paper down and attempted to smother the blaze with her foot, when in the effort her clothes took fire and she was instantly enveloped in flames.

TRAGICAL OCCURRENCE.—At Brooklyn, New York, on Tuesday evening last, a promising girl named Bridget Penne, about sixteen years of age, came to a sudden and violent death by the hands of her mother. As she was seated upon a chair in the apartment, she took up a wheel which had been charged by the father, and which was standing in the corner. Not thinking that it was loaded, he put a percussion cap upon it, and discharged it at his sister. The heavy charge which it contained entered her neck, and in fifteen minutes she breathed her last.

CRUEL MURDER.—The Fort Smith Herald informs us that quite recently a hunting party of Creek Indians were encamped some sixty or seventy miles below that place, when the men of the party brutally murdered one of their women, her body being placed by four other men. The cause of this atrocious murder was in consequence of the woman carrying a man who was a relative, which the Creek law prohibits. The murderers were not arrested.

HEAVY DAWGERS.—In the case of Ellis H. Hale Esq. the jury rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, assessing damages at \$4,416.66. Mr. Hale brought this suit to recover damages for injuries sustained in consequence of falling into a hole (which should have been covered by a grating) in Pearl street. His injuries are permanent, and of such a nature as to incapacitate him for active business.

IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE.—The St. Louis Republican notices the circulation of a memorial asking Congress for a donation of land to aid in the construction of a railroad from Lexington, Missouri, to the mouth of the Ohio.

FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, JANUARY 5, 1848.

What has the year 1847 done for the world? Is a question which may be properly asked at the commencement of 1848. Has it left the moral, religious, political, and social condition of mankind better than it found them? Have sovereigns become more liberal and subjects more enlightened? Have poverty and crime and want and misery decreased? Has education been more extended, and legislation become more humanized and regenerating? In fact, is the great principle of the age, PROGRESS, stamped upon the events of the past year, as the seal of its character and the testimonial of its value in the history of the world? To this long string of questions we think that one answer may be given, and we are grateful that it is an affirmative one. And, first, what has occurred in England during the past year? An abundant harvest has blessed the land, and comparative plenty has succeeded to such a season of destitution and want as had been long previously unknown to us. Poverty and crime and suffering have of course proportionally diminished; but there is yet, not only in Ireland, but in comparatively happy England, more than abundant employment for charitable exertion. Nay, there is yet more of pauperism and degradation than any thing short of broad and general national action can remove. But let us be thankful that the Christmas of 1847 must have been warmly welcomed at thousands of hearths where that of 1846 met with a cold reception.

The year which has just closed witnessed a great diminution in political party spirit; so great, indeed, that some of our leading public journals deprecate the present unanimity in the legislature of the country as being likely to lead to carelessness, indolence, and a numerous train of evils. They say that no administration will long be careful of the people's interests, or desire to possess their good opinion, unless it is kept upon the alert by a watchful, powerful, and organized opposition. We cannot stop to discuss the question; we have stated the fact. The financial policy of Sir ROBERT PEEL has been tried, and so have the principles and the workings of comparative free trade. The friends of both say they have worked well; their opponents are equally asservative of the contrary. Probably neither have yet had a sufficient trial.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL has during the past year brought forward an educational measure, which, while it fell short of national necessity and public expectation, was unquestionably a great step gained. It was an important foundation on which to raise, on a future day, a goodly superstructure. The poor-law commission and the administration of the poor-laws have been much modified and improved. The principles of this law, as it was originally framed, were good, but its workings were terribly deficient. More comfort, and at less cost, will be enjoyed by the unfortunate objects of its operation under its present modification. The hours of factory labor have been shortened by the passage of the ten-hours' bill. The result is doubted, but the object was humane and benevolent. The evils of the transport and convict system have been recognised by the Government, and, with the exception for particular offences, they will speedily be erased from the list of punishments.

Ireland was assisted and relieved with a promptitude and to an extent favorable to the national character and honor to humanity. The retropect of the year, in connection with Ireland, is too vividly before our eyes to need dwelling upon. We hasten therefore to a subject, painful indeed in its consideration, and fearful in its results, but which is at least free from the accumulation of ignorance, suffering, and crime which have of late formed the staple of Irish intelligence. It is a subject nearer home—the late commercial crisis. Extensive and awful as the effects of that crisis have proved, they cannot be said to have been altogether unexpected by those who, astounded at the fever and excitement into which the spirit of commercial gambling was hurrying the community, trembled at the unavoidable consequences of such a course. The immediate effect has passed, and it may be that good will be the result. It has ruined many, but it has cautioned thousands, and may prove a blessing in the end, rough and unglorious as its visitation has been upon those that it afflicted.

The Ministerial interference with the Bank of England was probably serviceable in arresting the monetary alarm; it certainly will do good by calling the attention of Parliament to the existing character of the bank; and Sir Robert Peel's bill will either be declared worthy of all confidence, or, after a full examination, be so reconstructed as to better answer its intentions. A new Parliament has been elected during the lately closed year, and probably the friends of liberal opinions and of progressive legislation throughout England, Europe, and the world have more cause to rejoice in the result of the elections than in any thing else which the chronicle of the year will bear upon its record. The classification of the members of the old and the new Parliament exhibits the following numbers:

	Liberals.	Peelites.	Protectionists.	Total.
Old Parliament.	283	112	263	658
New Parliament.	338	116	204	658

Now, although we do not suppose that every member of the new House of Commons who is classed as a Liberal is to be depended upon as a thorough-going advocate of all measures which partake of that quality, or that every one who is called a Protectionist has not any leaning towards civil and religious liberty, toleration, improvement, and progress, yet no better classification can be given, and in general those who are counted among the Liberals may be calculated upon as being favorable to toleration and liberty; whilst the distinguishing mark of those who are called protectionists will be found to be a tenacious holding on to things as they are and a most holy dread of innovation. The friends of Sir Robert Peel must mostly be found to belong to the Liberal party, and to supporters of the commercial and general policy of the present Whig Administration. The history of the short session of the new Parliament belongs to the old year. That history was noticed in a former communication; it was a bright and satisfactory commencement.

Lord MORLEY'S proposed sanitary measure, though last mentioned, is far from being regarded as least in importance. "Cleanliness" is said, in a homely adage, to be "next to godliness." It certainly is necessary to health of body, and without health there can be neither mental ease, comfort, nor exertion. So much for what the past year has done, and has promised shall be done for England.

Has the European Continent reason to rejoice in the events of the past year? We think that, generally speaking, it has. Denmark and Sweden have been greatly advancing, liberalizing, and improving; may a Copenhagen paper startles us with the intelligence that even remote Greenland has felt the influence of improvement; for we find therein an advertisement of a *Greenland family for a music master*! Who knows but that a few years hence we may have a Greenland family occupying the place at the Italian opera house which was lately so triumphantly filled by the Swedish nightingale. The anticipation may seem light and frivolous, but the fact of the union of Greenland and a music master is a striking one, and what no other year but 1847 ever produced.

And what has 1847 done for your side of the water?—for the birthplace of WASHINGTON and FRANKLIN, of MADISON and MARSHALL, of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS and HENRY CLAY; for the country towards which the eyes of the whole civilized world are turned with wonder and expectation; in whose progress every well-wisher to the best interests of mankind is concerned, and on whose prosperity the liberties of the human race are most materially dependent; whose hitherto successful realization of the blessings of free government gives an additional nerve to the arm of every foe to tyranny and oppression, and whose failure would cast a gloom over every mind that comprehends the value of well-regulated liberty, and is qualified to enjoy its blessings? I will not anticipate any other than a favorable reply.

JANUARY 8.—The revenue returns of this kingdom have just been made up for the year which ended on the 5th instant. The following is the result, accompanied with the statement of 1846:

	1846.	1847.
Customs.	£18,310,865	£18,015,296
Excise.	12,521,350	11,730,748
Stamp.	6,531,414	6,959,846
Property tax.	5,395,391	5,450,801
Assessed taxes.	4,272,406	4,234,361
Post office.	816,000	864,000
Crown lands.	120,000	77,000
Miscellaneous.	317,090	184,920

Total.

£48,684,416

£47,616,876

Deficiency of 1847 in permanent sources of national revenue, compared with 1846. £1,167,540
To this add the extras for 1846, viz:—
China money. 667,644
Excess of repayment of advances in 1846 above those of 1847. 506,365
Total deficiency of revenue from all sources in 1847. £2,341,549
That this deficiency is not so large as was feared it would be proved by the effect which the statement had in the stock market, where prices were not only maintained, but advanced. Persons every way competent to make a "good guess" anticipated a falling off of at least another million on the revenue receipts of the past year. Three per cent. consols are now worth eighty-six per cent. in the market, which is as high as they can be expected to rise at the present rate of interest, four per cent. This is the rate at the Bank of England and the National Banks of France and Holland.

It will be well for the sound and safe pursuit of trade and commerce that money should not become cheaper. The Bank of England committed its great act of indiscretion by discounting largely at three and even two and a half per cent., thus aiding the always too general tendency to speculation; compelled, as it necessarily was, when money became scarcer, to press for the repayment of the advances so cheaply obtained, and so, in too many cases, rashly and imprudently employed. To this cause more than to any other may the origin of the late money crisis be ascribed. Such, we venture to anticipate, will be the report of the committee of the House of Commons appointed on the currency question. If Sir Robert Peel's bill had permitted the Bank of England to make an unlimited issue of notes, would the crisis have terminated so easily, would business so soon again have returned into its usual channels, would confidence have been already restored, and the commercial atmosphere become purified and healthy? We feel quite inclined to reply in the negative.

Late Parliamentary returns show that the export of British and Irish produce and manufactures is upon the increase,